Factories and Farms

Trace the goals and costs of Soviet economic policies

TOT.C.8.1.C "Collectivization and the First Five Year Plan"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one goal of the First Five Year Plan, circle two government actions, and number two effects of those actions. Use your marks to trace how policy shaped people's lives.

Building Industry, Changing Farms

1 In 1928, Soviet leader Joseph Stalin launched the First Five Year Plan. Government planners set ambitious targets for coal, steel, and machine production. New factories needed workers, equipment, and food. Leaders hoped to turn a mostly agricultural country into an industrial power quickly. Rather than let businesses decide what to make, the state assigned production targets. It also expected grain from the countryside to feed growing cities and, through exports, help pay for imported machinery.

2 To secure that grain, Stalin's government pushed collectivization beginning in 1929. Officials combined individual farms into large collective farms and required families to give up control of much of their land, tools, and livestock. The state demanded grain deliveries at prices it set. Some farmers resisted by hiding crops or slaughtering livestock. Officials labeled many opponents "kulaks," seized their property, and deported them. Disruption, resistance, and harsh grain demands reduced the food available to many rural families.

3 The plans changed city streets as factories expanded and millions moved to industrial jobs. Coal and steel output grew, although many targets were missed and workers faced shortages of housing and basic goods. In the countryside, forced food collections and the disruption of farming contributed to catastrophic famines in 1932 and 1933, especially in Ukraine and Kazakhstan. Millions died across the Soviet Union. Industrial gains came alongside severe human costs, showing how the government's methods shaped both results.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Why did planners want grain from the countryside?

2. How was collectivization meant to help the First Five Year Plan?

3. How did the government's actions affect families who resisted collectivization?

4. What different results did these policies bring to industry and to rural communities?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four-sentence recommendation to a Soviet official in 1933. Propose a change to grain collections that could protect farm families while supporting industry, and explain one likely trade-off using evidence from the passage.

Factories and Farms

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one goal of the First Five Year Plan, circle two government actions, and number two effects of those actions. Use your marks to trace how policy shaped people's lives. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why did planners want grain from the countryside?	**To feed growing cities and earn money through exports for imported machinery.**
2	How was collectivization meant to help the First Five Year Plan?	**Combining farms and demanding grain deliveries gave the state a way to supply cities and support industrial growth.**
3	How did the government's actions affect families who resisted collectivization?	**Officials seized the property of many people labeled “kulaks” and deported them.**
4	What different results did these policies bring to industry and to rural communities?	**Coal and steel output grew, but harsh food collections and disrupted farming contributed to famines in which millions died.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The government should leave farm families enough grain to eat before collecting supplies for cities. Grain deliveries could still help feed factory workers. This change might reduce hunger in the countryside, where harsh demands reduced the food available to families. However, exporting less grain could leave less money to buy imported machinery.

Accept other plausible changes that protect rural food supplies while addressing an industrial need. Responses should explain a trade-off supported by the passage.